



Virginia Department of Human Resource Management

May 2, 2019

Dear State Employees:

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is pleased to announce free admission to state employees, preschool and K–12 teachers (public and private), as well as active-duty military personnel and their immediate families, to *Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey Toward Enlightenment*, on view through August 18, 2019. The journey from clamor to contemplation unfolds as audiences progress through the experiential exhibition to engage with nearly 100 spectacular objects, both historical and contemporary.

The exhibition is curated by Dr. John Henry Rice, VMFA's E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art, and Dr. Jeffrey Durham, Associate Curator of Himalayan Art, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, who each represent one of the country's most extraordinary museum collections of Himalayan art.

To claim your free ticket, please present your military, state, or teacher identification card at VMFA's Visitor Services desk. You can also purchase an individual membership to the museum for \$50. Regular ticket prices for *Awaken: A Tibetan Buddhist Journey Toward Enlightenment* are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older, and \$10 for youth 7–17 and college students with ID. You can reserve tickets by phone at (804) 340-1405. More information is available at www.VMFA.museum.

Along with works from as early as the ninth century AD, this world-class exhibition features three paintings by contemporary Nepalese-American artist Tsherin Sherpa, who trained in traditional Tibetan painting with his father, renowned Tibetan painter Master Urgen Dorje Sherpa.

From May 2 through May 5, a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery will create a sand mandala near the exhibition's entrance, which—in accordance with their beliefs and practice—they will dismantle in a return

visit on August 3. Their visit is part of the Mystical Arts of Tibet World Tour that has traveled for more than 25 years and is endorsed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The goal of the tour is to share Tibet's rich, authentic and sacred performing and visual arts with audiences all over the world. On May 2, co-curators Rice and Durham will discuss highlights of *Awaken* and the collaborative journey they undertook in its creation.

Be sure to see this extraordinary exhibition and participate in the many educational programs associated with it. Viewing the exhibit is also a great opportunity for you and your family to visit the museum, which is the only one in the United States open 365 days a year for general admission.

Sincerely,

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